



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services
Director of Public Health

At its meeting held October 18, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Knabe and Molina:

"We all know that in the past, potent flu strains have sometimes emerged, infecting millions who lack immunity and causing many to die.

"We also know that our lead County health officer, Dr. Jonathan L. Fielding and the Dean of UCLA's School of Public Health, Dr. Linda Rosenstock, worry that the County is insufficiently prepared for such an epidemic, especially if a strain of flu prevalent today in Asian birds mutates further to become the new strain that can be transmitted from person to person, and is associated with serious disease.

"The Department of Public Health has been working on a Pandemic Flu Plan for over one year. While the plan covers all of the key areas of concern, there are inherent problems with the lack of availability of antiviral agents and of an effective vaccine that can be administered in advance.

"This concern comes at a time when Los Angeles County's Public Health operation is reorganizing by separating from the Department of Health Services into its own Department of Public Health. This is an opportunity to show the value of this change, by asking our Public Health people to provide focus, creativity and leadership on this issue. Specifically, they can tell us what further steps can reasonably be taken within the County to strengthen:

1. Prevention, to minimize the impact on our population in the event that avian flu becomes the next pandemic; and

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2. Preparedness, so that when the next pandemic does occur, our disaster plans provide for rapid acquisition of the facilities, staff and medicines needed to minimize complications and deaths and to best protect the well.

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Director of Public Health was instructed to report back to the Board within 30 days with his assessment of the County's anti-pandemic flu prevention and preparedness programs, in consultation and coordination with other experts and vital constituencies, including the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services Agency, County Hospital and Clinic operations, local schools of medicine and public health, medical and hospital associations, area chambers of commerce, the State Department of Health Services, the California Conference of Local Health Officers and the United States Center for Communicable Disease Control, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education and all School Districts within Los Angeles County.

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